



# WINGSPREAD

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE

62nd Year • DECEMBER 19, 2008

## EYE *in the* SKY

Page 9

### INSIDE

*12th Flying  
Training Wing  
announces  
2009 Ambassadors*

Page 2

*Two Randolph  
squadrons earn  
AETC safety  
awards*

Page 3

*Parents, activities  
make child  
development center  
a success*

Page 7

*Air Force  
aviators  
graduate from  
CSO training*

Page 8

TRAINING THE WORLD'S FINEST AIRMEN FOR TOMORROW ... DEPLOYING COMBAT-READY WARRIORS TODAY.



NEWS

Randolph announces base Ambassadors for 2009

By Susan Gandy  
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 12th Flying Training Wing announced the 2009 Randolph Ambassadors Tuesday.

The winners, selected by a panel of six judges, are Capt. Carlos Ferrer, 341st Recruiting Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Courtney Linde, 12th Contracting Squadron.

“I am excited about having two top-notch individuals representing Randolph this coming year and participating in community outreach activities,” said Col. Jacqueline Van Ovost, 12 FTW commander.

The Randolph ambassadors will represent the base at more than 75 events throughout the year including parades, social and military functions, hospital and school visits, and the San Antonio Fiesta celebration in April. The ambassadors will also participate in on-base events like 4th of July activities, Randolph Air Show, and the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony.

The first official ambassador function is the annual visit to the Audie Murphy Veterans’ Hospital in February.

Captain Ferrer hails from Camuy, Puerto Rico, and is the flight commander of the Operations Flight for the 341 RS located at Lackland Air Force Base. As a flight commander, he monitors the production effectiveness of 68 recruiters in ten flights geographically dispersed over two states. In his position, he formulates and directs the implementation of recruiting plans, programs, goal allocation, and competition system for the squadron. In addition, Captain Ferrer serves as a liaison between the Military Entrance Processing Station, or MEPS, the unit, and the military, civic, education and community part-



Staff Sgt. Courtney Linde and Capt. Carlos Ferrer

ners. Captain Ferrer also provides leadership and guidance for the squadron operations branch and two MEPS liaison teams.

Captain Ferrer received his Bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico in 2003. He also completed the Air and Space Basic Course in residence at Maxwell AFB, Ala., and most recently, Squadron Officer’s School in 2008. He is on track to complete his

Master’s of Science degree in Industrial Engineering this coming summer.

When Captain Ferrer isn’t working, he spends his time keeping in top physical shape by working out and participating in triathlons and marathons. He also stays involved in multiple community service activities to include preparing dinners for wounded soldiers at the local Fisher House, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and mentoring ROTC cadets in Air Force careers and opportunities.

Captain Ferrer says being selected as a Randolph Ambassador is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and is definitely one of the highlights of his career. He continues to say, “I’m looking forward to sharing my passion for the Air Force with the local community and showing them how much we appreciate their outstanding support to our troops.”

On a personal level he said, “As a native Puerto Rican, I have always appreciated the opportunities and freedom we have as United States citizens. In an effort to support this great country, I made the decision early in my life to join the United States Air Force. Becoming a commissioned officer is one of my greatest accomplishments, and now as a flight commander, I am able to promote the dream I am living proof of.”

Randolph’s other newest ambassador, Sergeant Linde, is a native of Orinda, Calif. She is a contract specialist at the 12th CONS, where she is responsible for procurement and administration of commodity and service contacts. Sergeant Linde directly supports the 12th FTW, Headquarters Air Education Training Command, Air Force Manpower Agency, 19th Air Force, and Randolph’s mission partners.

See AMBASSADORS P3

Officials set military housing allowance rates for 2009

By Army Staff Sgt. Michael Carden  
American Forces Press Service

Housing allowances for military members will go up an average of 6.9 percent in 2009, Defense Department officials announced Monday.

The increase comes to an average of about \$95 per month across the board for the 950,00 servicemembers expected to draw basic allowance for housing, or BAH, in 2009, but some servicemembers will not see any increase at all, and others will see less than that the average increase, said Susan Brumbaugh, director of the Defense Department’s BAH program.

“We did see some decreases in some areas for some pay grades,” Ms. Brumbaugh said, “[but] it’s not across the broad spectrum. We also saw some significant increases across the board, so it’s a balance.

“In some years, you’ll have a rental

market that is very strong in some areas,” she explained, “and in others areas, you’ll have local rental markets where there’s not a lot of housing available. So it changes. It can fluctuate from year to year and this was a very typical year.”

The good thing for those already at Randolph is the fact that they won’t see their rates decrease; only those PCSing to Randolph after Jan. 1, 2009, will receive the lower rate, said 2nd Lt. Craig Poirier, 12th Comptroller Squadron financial services officer.

Members living in base housing don’t have to worry about changing their allotment. According to Lieutenant Poirier, the system will update itself.

Ms. Brumbaugh said an individual rate protection law is in place to protect those who already are under a rental agreement prior to Jan. 1, 2009.

See HOUSING P5

2009 BAH rate changes for Randolph

	2008	2009	CHANGE		2008	2009	CHANGE
E-1/4	1,059	1,139	7%	O-1	1,189	1,242	4%
	794	854	7%		937	1,037	10%
E-5	1,180	1,240	5%	O-2	1,255	1,257	0.16%
	885	966	8%		1,138	1,205	6%
E-6	1,257	1,257	0%	O-3	1,469	1,353	-9%
	954	1,051	9%		1,229	1,251	2%
E-7	1,335	1,292	-3%	O-4	1,599	1,500	-7%
	1,067	1,146	7%		1,343	1,296	-4%
E-8	1,420	1,331	-7%	O-5	1,688	1,603	-5%
	1,196	1,243	4%		1,394	1,319	-6%
E-9	1,507	1,395	-8%	O-6	1,702	1,616	-5%
	1,219	1,249	2%		1,473	1,355	-9%
w/ dep		w/o dep		O-7+	1,722	1,635	-5%
					1,502	1,382	-9%

Note: Airmen currently stationed at Randolph will not experience a rate decrease as indicated on the above chart. The decrease in rates only applies to Airmen PCSing to Randolph beginning Jan. 1. All Airmen will receive an increase in rates if indicated.

# 559th FTS, 99th FTS earn safety awards

By Thomas Warner

12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Two squadrons at Randolph Air Force Base were awarded Air Education and Training Command-level safety awards for fiscal year 2008.

The 99th Flying Training Squadron and the 559th Flying Training Squadron each earned Air Force Flight Safety Plaques, receiving congratulations in a message from Major Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, AETC vice commander.

"We have never had a Class A or Class B incident since the squadron stood up here in 1993, so we feel like there were a lot of people who had a hand in this award," said Maj. Brad Rice, 99th FTS safety officer.

Class A incidents involve as much as \$1 million in damage or personal injury. Class B designates damages up to \$200,000. Avoidance of these is a criterion to receive the award.

The 99th Panthers have 22 permanent



assigned instructor pilots and include around 60 students, reserves and attached pilots serving in various capacities here. The squadron trains with the T-1A Jayhawk aircraft.

"The whole group is responsible and we're proud to be among those recognized for issues involving safety," said Major Rice, adding that the

squadron had organized the first-ever T-1A conference where ideas for the aircraft were discussed.

Also receiving the same award were the 559th FTS Fighting Billygoats, who train here in T-6A Texan II aircraft.

The squadron utilizes the capabilities of 81 instructor pilot personnel, each of whom works closely with Lt. Col. Eric Cain, 559th FTS commander.

"I know all of them personally and our squadron does an outstanding job," Colonel Cain said. "We work under an Operational Risk Management mode. That means prior

to every training sortie, we go over any and all risks involved with that mission. We seek to identify any potential hazards and we talk to our pilots about them before they enter the aircraft."

Squadrons and individual recipients of various awards for fiscal year 2008 have displayed the highest degrees of professionalism, knowledge and skill, said Major Rice.

## Fighter pilot's software prowess saves AF millions, earns award

By Sean Bowlin

12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

A former 12th Flying Training Wing Airman saved the Air Force more than \$2.3 million by creating a flight forecasting computer program which earned him an Air Force 2008 Productivity Award.

Maj. Eric Schmidt also modified an existing Air Force flight scheduling software program to efficiently replace hand-writing a schedule on a magnetized board.

Major Schmidt, who recently joined the 3rd Special Operations Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., created the flight forecasting computer program while he was chief of scheduling with Team Randolph's 435th Fighter Training Squadron.

"Major Schmidt was the critical link in taking the 435th Deadly Black Eagles to the next level on many initiatives," said Lt. Col. Bruce Smith, 435th FTS commander. "His scheduling prowess and dedication to the squadron, group and wing led to the 435th's 'excellent' rating and to the 'outstanding' rating we got in flight training (during the ORI)."

Major Schmidt's forecaster identifies surpluses and shortfalls in both flying hours and pilot availability earlier than was possible before.

Using the forecaster allowed the major and thus the 435th FTS to save 450 excess flight hours. In turn, this saved the Air Force about \$970,000 which would have been used for fuel and maintenance for those sorties, if they had been flown by the 435th's instructors.

"The Department of Defense does not want us to waste the taxpayer's money," Major Schmidt said.

In the end, the squadron trained an additional 12 students that were not originally programmed into the squadron's annual training load with the money saved by using the forecaster.

Major Schmidt was also the primary enabler to incorporate TIMS, Training Integrated Management System, in the Air Education Training Command with modifications he suggested to fully utilized the software's digital scheduling capabilities.

Using the modified TIMS reduced time formerly required to produce a valid flight schedule from 14.5 hours per day to 6.5 per day. It also cut human errors typically made by hand-entering information on the magnet-

ized flight board by 80 percent.

He also oversaw the 435th FTS's execution of a 6,000 sorties per year while using the modified TIMS to monitor flight hours and returned 850 excessive flying hours in total.

This saved AETC an additional \$1.5 million.

Major Schmidt's modifications to the TIMS are under review for an AFSO 21 Improvement Process.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith said he didn't even need to point out Major Schmidt's software modifications and creations to the Inspector General team during the recent Operational Readiness Inspection.

"It was easily recognizable," Colonel Smith remarked. "Major Schmidt is the go-to guy. He's the guy that takes the tough jobs and makes them look easy – and loves doing it!"

### AMBASSADORS from P2

She is also a Unit Deployment Manager, ensuring her unit's military personnel are always trained and ready for deployment.

Sergeant Linde has accomplished 52 credit hours towards her Community College of the Air Force degree in contracts management. She has also completed a mentorship course and is certified to counsel at-risk youth at local schools, and has earned her Acquisition Professional Development Program Level II Contracting Certification. Her

future plan is to complete her degree in Contract Administration.

Sergeant Linde is a certified master scuba diver and enjoys riding her horse on her off-duty time. She is also actively involved in several community endeavors, such as organizing and participating in the "Magic While You Wait" program through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, the "Campaign for a Cure," for St Jude Children's Hospital, helping to raise \$700 for cancer patients, and the Toys for Tots program where she collected \$2,000 in gifts for children.

Sergeant Linde was thrilled to hear she will represent Randolph and the Air Force in 2009.

"I am honored and tremendously excited to be given the opportunity to serve Randolph AFB and the community. I absolutely love our great Air Force and I look forward to getting out in our community, meeting new people and sharing my experience as an Air Force member."

For more information on the ambassador program, call Susan Gandy, 12th FTW Public Affairs at 652-4407.



## Commander's Action Line

*While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.*

*In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.*

Call 652-5149 or  
e-mail [randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil](mailto:randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil)

*When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.*

**Col. Jacqueline Van Ovost**  
12th Flying Training Wing commander



## COMMENTARY

# AF leaders send holiday message

By **Michael B. Donley**, Secretary of the Air Force,  
**Gen. Norton A. Schwartz**, Air Force Chief of Staff and  
**Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley**, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

The holidays give each of us an opportunity to reflect our accomplishments of the past year and cherish time with our families. It is also a time to look forward to a new year of opportunities, both collectively and individually.

Our Air Force faced difficult challenges this year and all of you responded admirably in meeting them. As a Service, we renewed our focus on stewardship, accountability, precision and reliability. These are the hallmarks of our core values – integrity, service and excellence. Each and every one of you is vitally important. Our role as trustworthy partners in today's joint and coalition fight depends on your day-to-day contributions. We could not be more proud of all you do to demonstrate that the Air Force is "all in" and devoted to winning today's fight while preparing for tomorrow's challenges.

During this holiday season, you can reflect with pride that many of our great nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Airmen may safely celebrate with their families because of your contribution. The global vigilance, reach and power you collectively provide the nation are vital to our security, both at home and abroad. In the coming year, we will continue to innovate the air, space and cyberspace capabilities we provide combatant commanders. You are the strength of our Air Force and its greatest asset. It is our privilege to serve with you all, and we are grateful for the support your families so faithfully provide.

We recognize your service requires great sacrifice. While many Airmen will enjoy time with their families this holiday season, tens of thousands more are separated from loved ones or far from home because of their selfless service to the nation. We honor all of you, your service and your families who share in your sacrifice. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

# Giving: The spirit of the season

By **Lt. Col. Joseph Rushlau**  
376th Expeditionary Maintenance Group  
commander

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan – Those of us deployed to Manas Air Base are rolling into the holiday season. We just celebrated Thanksgiving, which most of us would like to spend with family and friends back in the United States.

With the advent of the holiday season, Airmen here may wonder how exactly they will get to celebrate so far from home and their loved ones. I would challenge you to think about the spirit of the holiday season we have just entered. You may not realize that Manas AB Airmen are celebrating every day because the true spirit of this season is about GIVING and that is exactly what we do here.

The mission at Manas AB is aerial refueling, passenger movement and warrior care. We give to support many different people day in and day

out. The season of giving is a year round experience at Manas AB.

We also get support from many different people – not just our co-workers in the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing. We all know that some of our comrades have given their lives to ensure the rest of us keep the gift of freedom. To sacrifice is to give, and there is no greater act of giving than what these warriors have done for their nation and the cause of freedom.

We may not face the same level of dangers at Manas AB, but we do sacrifice. We have all given up time at home with our families and friends so we can give support to our brothers and sisters in arms during this time of war. What a great example of the holiday spirit of giving.

I see giving from the heart every day with the service our Airmen provide to our great outreach organizations during their off-duty time. Many Airmen here have given time to the people in the local communities. If

you don't think this is a great example of holiday spirit, look again – it's there in the smiles on the faces of the children. If you think you are going to miss the smiles around the Christmas tree this holiday season, spend some time at a local school or orphanage and I think you will be satisfied.

In our culture, we sometimes focus on the material things we give and get, but what is the most precious gift you can give another person? The answer is your time and your attention. Spend a few minutes outside work with your co-workers and neighbors in the local communities. The gift of one's attention and time is not soon forgotten.

A famous philosopher, Francis of Assisi, said, "It is in giving that we receive." So, if you want to feel the holiday spirit of giving, I encourage you to give some of your own time to help someone else. By taking care of one another, everyone will feel the spirit of the holiday season.

## ON THE COVER

Lieutenants Jason Ruiz (front), Brad Delloiacano (standing) and Kyle Durch (back) practice using targeting pods on simulated attack aircraft during lab instruction at the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fundamentals Course Tuesday.

Photo by Rich McFadden

## WINGSPREAD

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Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the *Wingspread* office in Hangar 6.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to [news@randolph.af.mil](mailto:news@randolph.af.mil) or by fax at 652-3142.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760.

HOUSING from P2

The local market economy serves as the basis for BAH rate changes. Military housing officials from each installation begin collecting data from the local rental market as early as January each year. They research the current rates for all the different standards and profiles for homes, Ms. Brumbaugh explained.

Typically, rates are higher in larger, more heavily populated metropolitan areas, such as New York City, Chicago and Washington, D.C. Rates in rural areas usually are more stable, and although they may increase to some degree, the rise doesn't have the same impact as in larger cities, she said.

"The military housing offices are looking at adequate and appropriate dwellings we would want our military families living in," she said. "They don't look at a small, two-bedroom house and say, 'We could put an E-5 with a family in that.' They look at it as something that would be appropriate for that particular profile."

The BAH program is designed to benefit servicemembers, but it's not designed to pay 100 percent of their housing expenses, Ms. Brumbaugh said. Although she's never met a servicemember who is pleased with his or her BAH rates, she said, the program is very well designed, and once servicemembers understand the rate-setting process, they're fairly satisfied.

"The entitlement is a wonderful entitlement," she said. "[The Defense Department] bends over backward to make sure that if there is any change at all, it's for the benefit of the member."



Randolph Chapel  
Holiday Schedule

Christmas Services schedule

- CATHOLIC

**Dec. 24** - Chapel Two at 5 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Children's Program

**Dec. 24** - Chapel Two at 5:30 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Mass

**Dec. 24** - Chapel Two at midnight  
Christmas Midnight Mass
- PROTESTANT

**Dec. 24** - Chapel One at 5:30 p.m.  
Family Focus Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

**Dec. 24** - Chapel One at 7:30 p.m.  
Traditional Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

Congress approves paternity leave

Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Eligible Airmen are now authorized ten days of non-chargeable paternity leave following the birth of their newborns, courtesy of the 2009 Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act.

The law applies to married, active-duty Airmen. The Airman's wife must have given birth to the child on or after Oct. 14.

"This is going to have a positive impact on our Air Force families," said Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Britt, superintendent of the Directorate of Personnel Services Special Programs. "By giving our new dads more

time to bond with mom and baby, we're building a stronger Air Force family."

Paternity leave, which may be authorized in conjunction with ordinary leave, must be taken on consecutive days and within 60 days following the birth of the baby. For extraordinary circumstances, commanders may authorize paternity leave up to a maximum of 90 days following the baby's birth.

As with any administrative absence, the commander may disapprove paternity leave when it would have an adverse impact on the readiness or operational mission of the unit.

For more information, call the AF Contact Center at 1-800-616-3775.

BASE BRIEFS

Clinic holiday hours

The veterinary clinic will only be open for over-the-counter-sales on Dec. 22-24 and 29-30 from 7:30 a.m. to noon. The clinic will be closed Dec. 25-26, 31 and Jan. 1-2.

No FEAR Act training

All Department of Defense civilians and their supervisors (both civilian and military supervisors) who are assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, including all satellite units, are required to complete the mandatory Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act, or No FEAR Act, training every two years.

This year's deadline to complete training is Dec. 31. Users with computer access should take the course on the Advanced Distribution Learning System, or ADLS.

Those with no computer access should attend one of the mass briefings at the base theater on either Dec. 16 or 18 from 9-9:30 a.m. or 1-1:30 p.m.

For details, call the equal opportunity office at 652-4376.

Christmas feast

The dining facility will serve a continental breakfast Dec. 25 from 7-8 a.m. and a Christmas meal from noon to 5 p.m.

On Christmas Day, the dining facility is open to all active-duty members, their family members, retirees and their family members with valid ID cards.

ASMC award nominations

The deadline to submit nominations for the Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers annual awards is Jan. 9, 2009.

Visit [www.asmc.org/national/nationalawards.shtml](http://www.asmc.org/national/nationalawards.shtml) for details. Submit awards through your vice president to the awards committee chairman, Denise Perryman, at [denise.perryman@randolph.af.mil](mailto:denise.perryman@randolph.af.mil).

For questions call 652-5328.

AETC symposium

An Air Education and Training Command Additional Duty First Sergeant Symposium is Feb. 23-27 from 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy Auditorium at Lackland Air Force Base. This is a unit-funded TDY

designed to provide invaluable tools to prospective, current or additional duty first sergeants. Interested members must coordinate with their first sergeant or command chief prior to registration.

For questions about the symposium, contact Master Sgt. Brian Graybeal at 671-4083. To register, contact Master Sgt. Keith Baber at 671-9481.

EDUCATION CENTER  
652-5964

CCAF graduation deadline

The submission deadline for all graduation documentation to the Community College of the Air Force is Feb. 28. CCAF is in the process of moving from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to Gunter Annex, Ala.

Please send all transcripts to the new location at: Community College of the Air Force, 100 Turner Blvd, Gunter Annex, Ala., 36114.



To view all Randolph briefs, visit [www.randolph.af.mil](http://www.randolph.af.mil)



# ‘Operation Cheer’ delivers holiday cheer to area wounded

By Sean Bowlin  
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

A 12th Flying Training Wing chaplain’s love for wounded warriors is apparent.

Capt. (Chaplain) Eric Boyer, who served in the Army before he went to college, then to divinity school and subsequently joined the Air Force and became a leader of Team Randolph’s Protestant flock, is showing that love this holiday season.

This year, Captain Boyer encouraged Team Randolph’s Protestant parishioners to contribute to “Operation Cheer,” a program that brings a dose of the holiday spirit to those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines recovering from wounds in local military hospitals.

In its second year, Operation Cheer takes donations from chapel attendees and uses the money to buy poinsettia plants for war fighters recovering from wounds in San Antonio military hospitals and for their families, who watch and wait for them to get better.

Last year, parishioners bought 186 poinsettias and donated them to patients at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, and to families of the wounded staying at Ft. Sam Houston-based Fisher House.

This year’s donated poinsettias will be given out Tuesday evening at the same facilities and at the Warrior Transition and Support Center at Ft. Sam Houston. Like last year, families of the wounded staying at The Fisher House will also receive poinsettias.

And the project is still going strong.

“There’s still time to donate this Sunday at church,” commented Collis Thorn, 12th FTW Chaplain’s office Protestant parish coordinator. “And so far, the response has been overwhelming.”

He’s right. This year, thanks to Captain Boyer’s appeal, parishioners bought and donated 483 poinsettias.

The poinsettias are bagged in Chapel 1. From there, volunteers put a card in each one and will distribute them after the second Christmas service to be held in Chapel 1 this Tuesday.

Some of those volunteers said spending hour after hour bagging the poinsettias and setting them out in church pews in Chapel 1 for easy pickup was a labor of love. It was the least they could for those wounded who asked for nothing – and gave their all.

“I’m exhausted doing this and I feel good about it,” said Merle Herren, a retired Air Force civilian who has been a parishioner for 21 years.

Volunteer Connie Bell, a 36-year parishioner, simply said, “This is wonderful and it’s something nice we can do for the wounded.”

Captain Boyer took no credit for the project. Instead he said, “I consider it a tremendous privilege that we here can do anything for the wounded after what they have done for us.”

“It keeps our parishioners conscious of the sacrifices our warriors have made,” added Thorn, who worked bagging poinsettias during several late nights after spraining an ankle doing so.

But Thorn put away his crutches and kept bagging poinsettias.

“There was too much work to be done,” he said.



**Photo by Sean Bowlin**  
Connie Bell, chapel volunteer, bags poinsettias to be delivered to military members in local hospitals during the holiday season.

## Shoe-in



Maj. Jesse Richardson, 12th Medical Operations Squadron, holds a runners clinic on Wingman Day Dec. 12 at the Health and Wellness Center. Runners clinics are held monthly to help individuals progress on their running program with little to no injury and includes an overview of running, how to progress and proper clothing and footwear.

**Photo by Dan Solis**



# CDC stimulates mental, physical growth of children

By Thomas Warner

12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Children on playgrounds at Randolph Air Force Base get lots of exercise, but outside time can also provide a mental stimulus.

Play time for children at Randolph's two Child Development Centers is not regarded as simple recess anymore, with a recent push to offer children more opportunities for growth during periods spent outside each day.

"This is the time we're noticing in society that children aren't getting the physical activity they need," said Tabitha Booker, Randolph Child Development Center program director, referring to when a child is between the ages of six months and five years.

At Randolph, where the CDC was named best in the Air Education Training Command in 2007 and best in the entire Air Force in 2008, much of that success is traced to efforts by staff to immerse the children in positive solutions for both body and mind.

Gardens are planted and tended, structures are built, then torn down, and high mileage is put on the multitude of three- and four-wheeled bicycles available there.

"We believe in hands-on activities and learning," said Laura Todd, training and curriculum specialist.



Photo by Melissa Peterson

Child Development Center staff members Theresa Duncan, left, and Allison Dixon hold a multicolored parachute aloft recently, as children play underneath.



Photo by Melissa Peterson

Micah Prada leads other children around a home-made walkway designed by the kids during time outside recently, at one of Randolph Air Force Base's two child development centers.

"The teachers are trained to keep kids active. Even if the children don't seem to want to participate, we'll look for ways to draw them in."

Both facilities have a "Loose Ends" area where large Lego-like plastic pieces can be connected to build houses, forts and pretty much anything the children can think up. A variety of ground surfaces such as real grass, artificial turf and bouncy rubber are used on the grounds, each conducive to minor spills routinely endured by children in the pre-school age bracket.

Children are allowed to seek out and choose what they want to participate in while outside.

"Pretty much everything we do inside is also available to the children outside," said Ms. Booker. "There is an area for painting, areas to read a book, puzzles, music – you name it. Different children want to do different things and we want to give them as many options as possible."

Large motor activities keep children involved, such as group activities underneath a parachute or oversized musical instruments played with cylindrical, mallet-like sticks. A pair of guinea pigs lives in one of the rooms, where virtually no media, except computers occasionally, is used to educate children.

"We might use an interactive compact disc that lets them dance or wave their arms, but that's about it," said Ms. Booker, a former CDC director at Lackland Air Force Base, who oversees a staff of roughly 60 people here. "We don't let them play

computer games or that sort of thing, except when the oldest children sometimes use computers.

The facility on the south end of the base is for children ages six months to two years. A second CDC campus, across the street from the base exchange, services children between the ages of two and five.

"We fall under 12th Services Division but we know the term 'customer service' has to mean something a little different here than at other places," Ms. Booker said. "Parents need to be confident they aren't just bringing their kids here and dropping them off. They need to be able to expect a lot from us."

Booker has overseen the implementation of viable parent participation groups and numerous days set aside for parent interaction including a recent event that featured pony rides, a petting zoo and food.

"She's gradually gotten the full involvement of parents and at the end of the day we teachers try to give them some commentary on some of the things we've been doing in the classroom," said Angela Green, a two-year CDC classroom program lead.

Ms. Green said equal to the children at a facility, the parents are the most valuable asset a CDC can have.

"There has to be a constant open-door policy and there have to be various parent-related activities that make them a part of the learning process," Ms. Green said. "I think we have that here."



# AF aviators complete CSO training

*Nineteen Air Force aviators will receive their wings during a combat systems officer graduation today at 10 a.m. in the Parr Club.*

*During the combat systems officer course, students learn fundamental, system and intermediate navigation. Students spend about 12 months in training, including an Introductory Flight School.*



 2nd Lt. Bradley Bentlage E-3 Tinker AFB, Okla.	 2nd Lt. Lucas Caulder WC-130 Keesler AFB, Miss.	 2nd Lt. Jonathan Clark AC-130H (EWO) Cannon AFB, N.M.	 2nd Lt. Robert Ferguson Jr. E-8 Georgia ANG	 2nd Lt. Jaime Jurado U-28 (EWO) Hurlburt Field, Fla.	 2nd Lt. Nicholas Krayvo B-52 Barksdale AFB, La.
 2nd Lt. James Lewis B-52 Barksdale AFB, La.	 2nd Lt. Jason Martin RC-135 Offutt AFB, Neb.	 2nd Lt. Patrick Miller B-52 Barksdale AFB, La.	 1st Lt. Christopher Nastal RC-135 (EWO) Offutt AFB, Neb.	 2nd Lt. Jacob Roney C-130 Little Rock AFB, Ark.	 2nd Lt. Ryan Ruediger B-52 (EWO) Barksdale AFB, La.
 2nd Lt. Charles Sigman B-52 (EWO) Barksdale AFB, La.	 2nd Lt. Travis Slone C-130 Dyess AFB, Texas	 2nd Lt. Christopher Swope B-52 Barksdale AFB, La.	 2nd Lt. Isaiah Thomason KC-135 McConnell AFB, Kan.	 2nd Lt. Jefferson Wood C-130H Alaska ANG	



2nd Lt. Ryan Van Bockel  
MC-130  
RAF Mildenhall, UK



2nd Lt. Justin Wilson  
RC-135 (EWO)  
Offutt AFB, Neb.

*"I chose to become a CSO because I have always wanted to get involved in aviation and serve in the military. Specifically, being a CSO gives me the opportunity to be an integral crewmember and directly support operations that are taking place all over the world. It is an awesome responsibility that I think will be very exciting and rewarding."*

*"One of the most valuable lessons was understanding how and when to disagree with others, and to consider the value of other points of view. As officers we are taught to have the courage of our convictions. However, we should realize that none of us has a monopoly on good ideas or even perspectives. I have finally determined that after I state my position as clearly and accurately as possible, I should move on. That was actually a very hard lesson for me."*



*"I learned in this course how we fit into the bigger picture of coordinating the airspace of a battle. We've never been operational in the combat Air Force and here we've learned the capabilities of different aircraft and their weapons."*

**1st Lt. Brandon Ongra**  
Unmanned Aircraft Systems student pilot



Photo by Rich McFadden

First Lt. Bret Saubert (right), 563rd Flying Training Squadron UAS student pilot, learns to integrate air power on a cyber-based simulation in the training lab at the UAS Fundamentals Course.

## UAS students set to graduate from inaugural class

By Sean Bowlin

12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

A first-of-its-kind combat familiarization program for pilots slated to fly unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS, will graduate nine newly-winged lieutenants from Team Randolph's 563rd Flying Training Squadron Monday.

The four-week Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fundamentals Course, or UFC, began instruction Nov. 21. It's designed to give the fledgling pilots a feel for the air- and ground-based battlespace environment in 100 hours of combined simulator and academic classes.

The UFC provided the pilots with a computer-based simulation using high-end gaming technology and exposing them to multiple Air Force strike aircraft on a cyber-based battlefield.

"It simulates the real-world ground-combat and air-combat environment for the UFC students," explained Lt. Col. Scott Cardozo, 563rd FTS director of operations.

Capt. Tom Moore, 563rd FTS UFC flight commander, civilian contract instructors, and combat systems officer instructors from the 563rd FTS taught, observed, tested and critiqued the student pilots through simulated computer-based air strikes in a real-time, extremely high-fidelity, air combat picture.

UFC instructors predict that eventually 100 UFC graduates per year will learn to fly UASs at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., and eventually work with the UAS enlisted sensor operators throughout the world. The nine pilots will head to the two-week Joint

Firepower Course at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.,

Jan. 26.

Then, it's on to the flying training unit at Creech AFB. After that,

qualified UAS pilots will be assigned to manned aircraft and possibly move between manned and unmanned aircraft as their Air Force careers progress.

They're off to a fine start, said Captain Moore, an award-winning flight instructor and flight commander shepherding the young lieutenants through the course.

"They have all done well," he said.

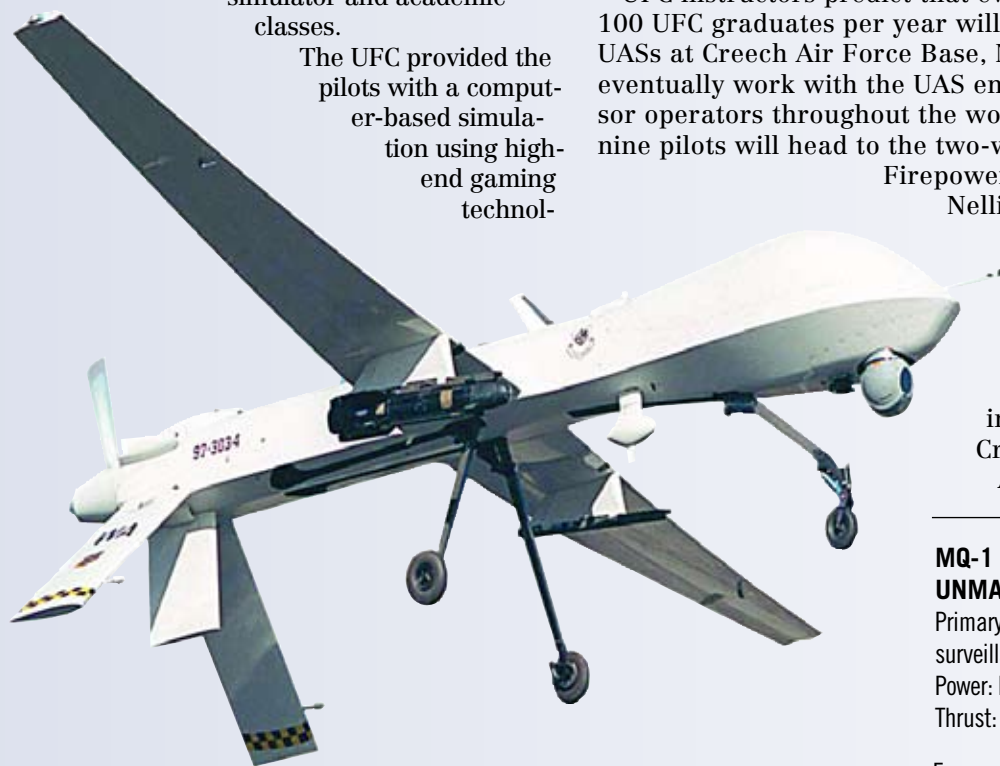
Colonel Cardozo also praised his young charges.

"They have strong academic averages and have taken advantage of all the training we can give them," the colonel commented. "They learned how to read and understand an Air Tasking Order. They also learned weapons employment, watched computer videos and read text message conversations on live Predator feeds from overseas."

Captain Moore said the students also learned how to employ sensors on attack aircraft.

One of the nine lieutenants spoke about his experience in the inaugural course.

"I learned in this course how we fit into the bigger picture of coordinating the airspace of a battle," 1st Lt. Brandon Ongra said. "We've never been operational in the combat Air Force and here we've learned the capabilities of different aircraft and their weapons."



### MQ-1 PREDATOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM

Primary Function: Reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition  
Power: Rotax 914F four cylinder engine  
Thrust: 115 horsepower

Wingspan: 48.7 feet  
Weight: 1,130 pounds empty  
Maximum takeoff weight: 2,250 pounds  
Fuel Capacity: 100 gallons  
Cruise speed: around 84 mph, up to 135 mph  
Range: up to 400 nautical miles (454 miles)

For more information on the MQ-1 Predator, visit [www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=122](http://www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=122)



## 12th Services Briefs

### AUTO SKILLS CENTER – 652-2952

#### • Learn to maintain your vehicle

In this two-session class, you learn to change your oil, rotate your tires and do a brake job. Classes are Tuesdays January 6 & 13 from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$45 plus supplies.

### BOWLING CENTER- 652-6271

#### • Gifts for everyone

Are you having a hard time finding the perfect gifts for special people on your list? The Pro Shop is offering 10 to 25% off selected balls, bags and shoes through December 23. Stop in, check out the new equipment and pick up something for that hard to please person in your life.

#### • Christmas break bowling special

Get out of the house during your Christmas break and have some bowling fun December 22, 23, 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the extremely low price of \$1.75 per game, per person and \$1.50 for rental shoes.

#### • December 26 bowling special

Treat your family to some great bowling fun on Dec. 26 from 10 a.m. to midnight at the bowling center. Bowling is only \$1.75 per game, per person and special scoring games will be used throughout the day with lots of prizes.

### KENDRICK CLUB – 652-3056

#### • Life is a Caberet

Join us for New Year's Eve and meet Liza Minnelli (impersonator) as she entertains you with some fabulous music from 7-9 p.m.

Doors in the Ballroom open at 7 p.m. and the buffet will be served until 9 p.m. The Texas Chili Peppers will provide the entertainment from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The menu consists of heavy hors d'oeuvres and a Kahlua coffee and mini cheesecake bar (assorted and plain) will be available at 9 p.m. Price for this package is \$56.95 for club members or \$66.95 for nonmembers or guests.

The doors open at 10 p.m. in the Nite club and a buffet of light hors d'oeuvres will be served until 11:30 p.m. The

price for the Nite Club package is \$33.95 for club members or \$43.95 for nonmembers.

The price for both packages also includes complimentary glasses of champagne cocktails, champagne at midnight, one complimentary beverage, party favors and a breakfast buffet. Lodging reservations may also be made at the time you make your party reservations. Cost per room is \$23.25 and transportation to and from lodging will be provided by club personnel.

### INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL – 652-5640

#### • Santa suit rental

Want to be the life of your holiday party? Reserve your Santa Claus suit now for your special holiday party whether it is a unit function or neighborhood gathering. ITT has complete suits available for \$25 a day. Reservations must be made in person at ITT, Bldg. 897.

#### • Stocking stuffers

ITT has the perfect stocking stuffer for you! Choose from IMAX and Regal Theaters, Natural Bridge Caverns, Natural Wildlife Ranch, season passes to a favorite theme park, Entertainment Books, Disney World or Disney Land Tickets or tickets to a Broadway play!

### PARR CLUB – 652-4864

#### • New Year's Eve celebration

The ballroom package includes a buffet dinner from 7-9 p.m. and the great sounds of The Ked Parrock Orchestra from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The price for this package is \$59.95 per person for members or \$64.95 per person for nonmembers.

The Sky Lounge package includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and kicking up your heels with "A Twist of Fate". The price for this package is \$39.95 for members or \$44.95 for nonmembers.

Both packages also include an open bar, champagne at midnight, breakfast buffet and party favors. Lodg-

ing reservations may also be made at the same time you make your party reservations and the cost per room is \$27. For the guests staying at lodging, there will be a free shuttle service to and from lodging to the club.

#### • Christmas champagne brunch

Santa will visit during brunch on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Let the kids sit on Santa's lap and don't forget to bring your wish lists.

### RANDOLPH RECREATION PARK AT CANYON LAKE – 1-800-280-3466

#### • Half price shelters

You can rent one of the shelters for half price, \$17.50 per night, Mon to Thu, during the month of December. The shelters are equipped with a refrigerator, sink, microwave, a full size bed, bunk beds (sleeps four) (customers need to bring their own linen), air conditioning, heating, and a bathroom with a hot shower.

### RENDEZVOUS DINING FACILITY – 652-2555

#### • Christmas meal

The Rendezvous Dining Facility will have special hours for Christmas. A continental breakfast will be served from 7-8 a.m. and a scrumptious Christmas meal served from Noon to 5 p.m. All active duty members and their dependents and retirees and their family members with valid ID cards are invited to dine in the Rendezvous Dining Facility on Christmas Day.

### WOOD SKILLS CENTER – 652-2788

#### • Beginners' woodworking class

In this two-session class, you will not only learn the basics but you will also get certified on the equipment used so that you can continue to use the facility on other woodworking projects. Class is held on Tuesdays, January 6 & 13 from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$45 plus supplies. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 30.



*Deck the Halls*

**Make this holiday season great and give a personalized ornament!**

The Arts & Crafts Engraving Department does a superb job and we have an assortment of ornaments you can choose from or you can bring in the ornaments you want engraved.



**It's time to celebrate!**

Join us for a great  
**New Year's Eve at the Bowling Center**  
**December 31**

**OPEN BOWLING: 1 - 7 P.M.**  
**\$2 PER PERSON, PER GAME**

**ADULTS ONLY PARTY: 9 P.M.**  
**COLORAMA BOWLING: 9:30 P.M. - MIDNIGHT**  
**COST: \$25**

Please call 652-6271 for more information.



SPORTS and FITNESS

‘Maintain, Don’t Gain’ helps people monitor holiday eating

Packing on pounds looms large over celebrations

By Thomas Warner  
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

For about 150 people at Randolph Air Force Base, the holiday season will be merry and nice provided they don’t gain too much extra weight.

The Health and Wellness Center at Randolph is in the middle of an interesting event designed to make sure participants don’t eat too much during the end-of-the-year months. The HAWC’s first “Maintain, Don’t Gain Holiday Challenge” was expected to draw less than 50 people, but that estimation had more than tripled by the middle of November, when the challenge began.

“We did weigh-ins during the week of Nov. 10-14 and the goal is to not gain more than two pounds before we check final weights the week of Jan 5, 2009,” said Jennifer Sides, HAWC registered dietician. “Anyone who makes the goal will have their name entered into a drawing and we will have multiple prizes to give out to some of those people.”

Participants include active duty military, spouses, dependents, civilians and contractors. The event is not designed to include only overweight people, or those hoping to lose weight, Miss Sides said.

“It’s good, too, because we’re not

asking people to come in every week for progressive weight checks,” she added.

The first and final weight checks are all that will be taken, with participants monitoring their own eating, exercising and other activities during the holiday period. Newsletters and other information are sent via e-mail from Miss Sides and HAWC staff regarding holiday cooking ideas, nutrition, stress management and general fitness. Mini-classes also are being taught in December, free of charge, to people entered in the Maintain, No Gain competition.

“It’s a way to help keep me accountable for weight gain during the holidays,” said Staff Sgt. Anese Jones, Air

Force Recruiting Services NCOIC for enlisted programs. “I like to eat all the time and I try to be mindful during (Thanksgiving and Christmas) because there is such a wide variety of food available.”

the Maintain, No Gain challenge not so much to lose weight, but simply to be healthy. “This will give me a push, a motivation,” said Staff Sgt. Ruby Castaneda, 12th Medical Group NCOIC of Periodontal Treatment Coordinator. “The program calls for consumption of 64 ounces of water per day and I am trying to do that, and eating more fruits and vegetables.”

Research done by Jack Yanovski, M.D., his wife, Susan Yanovski, M.D., and four other individuals led to an article being printed a few years ago in the New England Journal of Medicine. That study focused on an assertion that individuals collectively

gain an average of five pounds during the final two months of each year.

“The research showed that assertion to be false,” Miss Sides said. “On average, people will gain no more than one or two pounds during that time. A negative aspect, though, is that those same people are not

likely to lose the weight once the new year starts. Going from year to year like this can cause problems.

“The Maintain, No Gain Holiday Challenge works for so many people because it’s not limited to people needing or hoping to lose weight. It serves as a means for people to be conscious of what they eat during these last months of the year and from the feedback I’m getting, it is proving to be beneficial to a lot of people.”

Sports BRIEFS



Holiday junior golf class

A holiday junior golf clinic is offered Dec. 26-30 from 1-3 p.m. The fee is \$40 per player and includes balls, rules booklet and instruction by PGA professional Charles Bishop.

To sign up, call 244-3415.

Christmas Eve golf

The Randolph Oaks Golf Course is open Dec. 24 for open golf with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Mulligan’s Grill will be closed that day and the Pro Shop will close at 1 p.m.

The golf course will be closed on Dec. 25 for Christmas.

Indoor half marathon

Participants are challenged to complete 13 miles running and walking by Dec. 29. Cards to track progress are available at the front desk and participants receive a water bottle on completion.

Resolution 5-Kilometer

The fitness center staff invites Team Randolph members to participate in the annual Resolution 5K run/walk Jan. 1 at 8 a.m. at Eberle Park. The first 50 participants will receive a T-shirt. This event is free and open to all DoD ID cardholders.

New Years Day golf

The base golf course is open Jan 1 with an 8 a.m. Shotgun Start. The Pro Shop closes at 1 p.m. and Mulligan’s Grill is closed all day.



December



Group exercise class schedule at the Rambler Fitness Center

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
6 a.m. - Cycling	9 a.m. - Yoga	6 a.m. - Cycling	9 a.m. - Step/Weights	6 a.m. - Cycling	9 a.m. - Kick Boxing
9 a.m. - Step	10 a.m. - Srs. Strength	9 a.m. - Step	9 a.m. - Yoga	9 a.m. - Step	9 a.m. - Pilates
11 a.m. - Step	11 a.m. - Step	11 a.m. - Step	10 a.m. - Seniors	10:15 a.m. - Cardiofusion	10:15 a.m. - Zumba
11:15 a.m. - Cycling	5 p.m. - Zumba	4 p.m. - Power Yoga	11 a.m. - Step	11:15 a.m. - Cycling	
5 p.m. - Step	6 p.m. - Kick Boxing	5:15 p.m. - Cycling	5 p.m. - Zumba	5:30 p.m. - Yoga	
5:15 p.m. - Cycling		5:30 p.m. - Cardiofusion	5:15 p.m. - Cycling		
6 p.m. - Yoga		6:15 p.m. - Sets & Reps	6 p.m. - Kick Boxing		
7:15 p.m. - Kick Boxing		7:15 p.m. - Kick Boxing			

• Rambler Fitness Center holiday hours are: Dec. 24 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dec. 25 - CLOSED; Dec. 26 (AETC Family Day) - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 per class. For more details or holiday class schedules, call the Rambler Fitness Center at 652-2955.



# MOVIES

**Randolph Movie Theater - 652-3278**

**Adults - \$4.00**

**Children (11 yrs. and under) \$2.00**



**"Quantum of Solace"**

Daniel Craig, Judi Dench

Today, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 6 p.m.

Rated PG-13, 110 min.

*On a mission that takes him to Austria, Italy and South America, 007 discovers an enemy conspiring to take total control of one of the world's most vital natural resources. In a minefield of treachery, murder and deceit, Bond allies with old friends to expose the plot.*



**"Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa"**

Voices of Ben Stiller, Bernie Mac

Saturday, 2 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m.

Rated PG, 110 min.

*The zoo-raised friends find themselves marooned on Madagascar. The penguins repair a wrecked plane. The unlikely crew stays airborne just long enough to make it to the vast plains of Africa, where they encounter species of their own kind for the very first time.*

**Visit**

**[www.aafes.com/ems/conus/randolph.htm](http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/randolph.htm)  
for Randolph's holiday movie schedules**